is being incurred annually, it is regrettable that Mysoreans should be stranded there for want of convenience. Would it not be advisable to help the choultries within the State rather than spend a lot on the choultries at Thirupathi?

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY.—I am very sorry for the member's suggestion. The Mysore charities on the Thirumalai Hills have been going on from time immemorial. They are not charities of to-day. Besides, they have been instituted by the Royal household for specific purposes. It is strange that there should be a suggestion that such charities should be done away with.

Mr. SUBBANNA NAIK.—Of late the Government have withdrawn several time-honoured charities. Why not the Government reconsider the Thirumalai charities also and utilise the funds for the benefit of institutions within the State?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—I am afraid the suggestion cannot be accepted.

Mr. SUBBANNA NAIK.—On what grounds were Purniah's choultries abolished?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—That does not arise from this question.

Mr. V. VENKATASWAMI CHETTY.—In regard to representation on the Devastanam Committee, will the representative of Mysore be an official or a non-official?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—No such distinction is proposed to be made.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—Is the Peishkar a Mysorean?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—Yes.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that he is not attending to the comforts of pilgrims from Mysore?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—No.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH.—Is the Peishkar submitting reports to Government from time to time as to whether the different sevas are actually offered and whether needful comforts are provided to pilgrims from Mysore?

Mr. J. APPAJI GOWDA.—The Muzrai Commissioner includes a para in regard to them in his annual administration report.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution No. 8.

Postponement of Elections to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council

Mr. K. RAMANNA moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the ensuing elections to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council be held in March 1941 instead of in September 1940 as during the latter month the candidates and the voters will be busily engaged in agricultural operations, and that the term of the existing constitution of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council be therefore extended by another year."

In doing so, he pointed out that one additional point, *viz.*, that the month of September was particularly inconvenient, being part of the rainy season, had been omitted in the resolution as printed though he clearly remembered having included it in the resolution as sent up by him. There were usually very heavy and incessant rains in September, particularly in the malnad, and consequently inter-village communications were practically cut off. Candidates would require one or two months before the election to tour the rural parts, educate the electors and canvass votes, but on account of heavy floods, they would be quite unable to do all that.

Secondly, it was just the time for the raiyats to busily engage themselves in agricultural operations, such as sowing gram and other cereals. In malnad, *kar ragi* was harvested only at that time. At such a time agriculturists could never afford to give up the said operations and prefer to exercise their franchise.

Thirdly, the Gowri and Ganesha festivals would have to be celebrated just before the dates fixed for the elections. Under the new reforms, women also had been enfranchised, but due to the said festivals they could not avail themselves of the privilege.

For all these reasons, he was of opinion that the ensuing elections to the Assembly and the Council should be postponed to either February, March

or April 1941 and the terms of the present Houses should therefore be extended by one year.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA, in seconding the resolution, observed that September was a most unfavourable time for the holding of elections. This was the reason why none of the previous elections to either the Representative Assembly or the Legislative Council had been held in that month. The member was grateful to the Government for having widened the franchise, so that under the new rules, the number of electors had increased threefold. If the candidates had to benefit by their votes, it was necessary for them to educate them as to how best they should exercise their franchise, but this they could not do unless sufficient time was available. The object that every elector should exercise his franchise would be rendered nugatory if the election was held in September. Again, those members of the Assembly who had filled the seats rendered vacant by the resignation of congress members and who had stood by the Government so loyally should not be put to any difficulties in contesting the elections. They had to do much uphill work and counteract the propaganda of congressmen and educate the electors properly. But holding the elections in September would mean that the more loyal sections would have very little time to do all such work.

An argument might no doubt be advanced that the calendar of events had been prepared and any change in it would unnecessarily dislocate business. The member could anticipate such an argument and meet it by saying that such changes had been effected in the past. For instance, on one occasion, elections to District Boards were postponed from April to June. In that view and also for the reason that the members of the House seemed unanimous in requesting that the elections now under reference should be postponed from September to March, he requested the Government kindly to accept the resolution.

Mr. BALE GOWDA, in further supporting the resolution, observed that a very important stage in agricultural operations would have been reached in the month of September. The raiyats could not possibly neglect their work, unless they were prepared to lose their crops and starve for a full year. In such an event the Government also would have no chance of collecting their land revenue demand.

Secondly, September being part of the rainy season, it would be very difficult for the concerned officers to conduct the elections as the accommodation available would not be sufficient for providing the required shelter both for themselves and also for the local and other electors coming to the polling stations.

Thirdly, agriculture being the mainstay of the raiyats, that was more important to them than elections. But franchise was also a most valuable privilege and it was up to the Government to enable the raiyats to exercise the same by holding the elections on a convenient date. After all, no serious results were going to follow the postponement of elections as suggested from September to March. At any rate the member was definitely against the elections being held between September and December, during which time agriculture demanded the undivided attention of all the raiyat population of the State.

Mr. N. Bhogi MALLIAH also strongly supported the resolution.

Mr. K. MARULAPPA pointed out that it would be very difficult for both candidates and electors to go from place to place in times of flood, particularly in the malnad, and very often men and cattle were being washed away. The convenience of agriculturists was also an important consideration. For both these reasons, he too agreed that the elections should be postponed till after the rainy season

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB, in further supporting the resolution, observed that speaking of the malnad in particular, jamabandi officers often hesitated to go out on tour during the rainy season. Such being the case, it would be very difficult for the candidates who did not command all the conveniences generally available to officers, to go about from place to place for canvassing votes.

Mr. M. B. GURULINGIAH, in opposing the resolution, observed that none of the arguments advanced in favour of the resolution was tenable. No doubt the dates now fixed for the holding of elections were part of the rainy season. But one could not be so sure of rains even during the rainy season. It was very likely that rains might not come, because the western winds would have just appeared and meant a change in the course of the monsoon. But even if that was not going to be so, this much could reasonably be expected, *viz.*, rains, if any, would not be very heavy in most parts. Besides, elections would generally take place in taluk and district headquarters, where ample conveniences including shelter would be available, both for the polling officers and also for the electors. If necessary, the number of polling stations might be increased so that the inconvenience to electors from the mofussil parts might be minimised as far as possible. If that was done, he personally felt that rainy season was preferable to summer months for holding elections, as the atmosphere would be very cool. More than all other considerations, the one circumstance in the way of postponement of elections was that already the preliminary work connected with the elections had progressed far according to the calendar of events and a lot of expenditure had been incurred. This being so, it would be a waste of time and public money if at this stage the elections should be postponed.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA explained the difficulties recently experienced by some of the members of the Assembly who had stood for election to certain District Boards. The elections were held both in the morning and in the afternoon. Hundreds of electors had gone to the polling booths but there were heavy rains and all the electors at once returned to their fields for attending to their agricultural operations. However much the candidates begged of them not to go back, they were not prepared to stay and exercise their votes. So, the speaker requested the Government never to hold elections in the rainy season, as the raiyats would be most particular about their agricultural operations.

He added that he was anxious not to be misunderstood for pleading for the postponement of elections. It was not that he wanted to stick on for another period of six months or one year. He only wished to point out the difficulties of both electors and candidates.

Continuing, he said that there were precedents for postponing elections in view of difficulties brought to notice. In 1933, on the request of members from the malnad, the Government had postponed elections to the Assembly from September to the early part of the following year. He requested that similar action might be taken on the present occasion also, so that all the people who had been enfranchised—including women, labour classes and Adikarnatakas,—might be enabled to exercise their valuable privilege.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA, in further supporting the resolution, said that the opposers had been effectively answered by the previous speaker. It might be said no doubt that those who favoured postponement did so from an anxiety to stick on to their seats. But the real object in asking for postponement of elections was that all the electors should be in a position to exercise their valuable privilege, and only those commanding the confidence of the largest possible number of electors should be returned to the constitutional assemblies of the State. If that object should be served, the elections should be held at a time when every elector could conveniently go to the polling booth. One would have to go to Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan Districts in order to be able to understand what rainy season really meant in the malnad. For three to four months at a stretch, it would be impossible to ford the floods and go from one village to another. If at such a time the elections were to be held, only a few of the electors would be able to exercise their franchise, and the laudable object with which His Highness the Maharaja so graciously announced the new reforms would thus

be frustrated. The member concluded with an appeal that the elections be postponed as requested and that they be held in the month of January after which a special joint session of both the Houses might be held. The member also ventured to suggest that His Highness the Maharaja might be graciously pleased to attend the joint session and inaugurate the Reforms.

Mr. K. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO observed that the usual period of three years for the present Assembly had been already extended by three months. He contended that Government had not been able to ascertain on many an important issue public opinion which, within this side of one year, had undergone a great change due to a thorough awakening even in the nooks and corners of the State. The supporters of the resolution had made much of the point that if rains interfered with elections, many of the electors would be unable to go to the polling booths. But the ideal had never been reached so far, that all the electors should exercise their franchise in connection with any election. Rain or no rain, those who appreciated the value of their franchise would exercise their vote despite any personal inconvenience. The member was also not much impressed by the argument that the candidates ought to have the time and convenience to canvass and therefore the elections should not be held in the rainy season. There ought to be no question of compulsion by the candidates so far as the electors were concerned. All things considered, it would be very wise on the part of the Government to go ahead with the elections as per the calendar of events already published.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH, in further opposing the resolution, said that there was some difficulty, no doubt, in holding the elections in September but observed that wisdom lay in overcoming the difficulties. For instance, the number of polling stations might be increased wherever the electors were likely to find it difficult to go to polling stations if they were located far from their places of residence. Again, in view of the Gowri and Ganesha festivals, the elections might be held one or two days later than the date at present proposed so that even women might exercise their votes. There was no need to ask for a postponement of the elections. The reforms so graciously granted by His Highness the Maharaja should soon be given effect to. Reference had been made by one of the previous speakers that in order to counteract congress propaganda, non-congress candidates ought to have sufficient time to tour and canvass. But the Congress was not going to capture all the seats. And even if it did capture some of the seats, nobody need object nor feel shy of working side by side with the members representing that group. It would be very good to have differing opinions in the Assembly on matters coming up before it, for, therein lay the essence of democracy. Let all interests and groups find their share of representation in every public body and let the representatives play their part well and truly and thereby enhance the reputation of Mysore.

Mr. MAYI GOWDA, in supporting the resolution, observed that it seemed to him that the date of the elections had not been fixed with a view to allowing sufficient time for the electors to exercise their franchise. A majority of the electors were illiterate and it would take considerable time for the candidates to educate the electors and do their own canvassing. For this reason, as also for the other reasons advanced by the previous speakers, he requested that the elections be postponed to February 1941.

Mr. G. S. SUBBA RAO in further supporting the resolution observed that electors would have to experience many difficulties if the elections were to take place in September. He specially urged that the question whether the new reforms should be given effect to immediately or a few months hence, in view of certain unhappy events that had happened in the State recently, should be considered. The State had been plunged in deep sorrow by the untimely demise of His Highness the Yuvaraja. That indeed was a catastrophe for the State as a whole, as also to the Royal

household. At such a time, he had no heart to suggest that the reforms should be given effect to immediately. Secondly, the international situation was for some time past growing worse from day to day. That was a circumstance on account of which elections in the Central Provinces had been postponed. The same reason ought to hold good in Mysore also. Thirdly, on account of the war, the situation required that every Administration should minimise expenditure to the fullest extent possible; and since elections would mean very heavy expenses to Government, it would be well if they were postponed and the grants allotted therefor utilised for other more urgent purposes. Or, the money could be saved for the purpose of meeting unforeseen demands in the coming months or years.

Mr. V. VENKATASWAMI SETTY lent further support to the resolution. He observed that the war in Europe was the one question of supreme interest and importance at the present moment and this was not a time when people should be thinking of activities of an optional nature like elections. It was the duty of every citizen of the British Empire to concentrate his attention on only one question, *viz.*, how best to help the Allies to prosecute the war to a speedy and successful conclusion.

It was likely that full dominion status was going to be conferred on India soon after the war. If that happened, it might become necessary for His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore also to vouchsafe further reforms in the State at no distant date. In this view it would be a purposeless strain on the Government to try in the meanwhile to work the reforms now announced

The Government also were busy applying their minds to war measures, a question which was bound to assume greater and greater importance even within a few weeks; so that they would find it extremely difficult to bestow attention on less important matters like elections.

For all these reasons he urged that the resolution be accepted by Government and the elections postponed for some time.

Mr. Khaji SYED YUSUF SAHIB also spoke in favour of the resolution. He observed that in view of the new reforms, it had become incumbent on the part of the candidates to educate the electors about their rights and privileges so that they might exercise their votes properly. The electoral rolls had to be prepared with very great care and precision. Already information was reaching him that the names of many electors had not been included in the new rolls. It was not desirable to prepare and publish the rolls in haste. Some more time would have to be taken over this important part of the business. Then, the lists were usually published only in hobli and taluk headquarters. Properly speaking, they should be published in each village. Again, sufficient time must be given to the members of the public for filing claims and objections relating to inclusion of names in the lists. At least one month's time would be necessary for this item of work alone. The qualifications of each elector must be entered in the electoral roll so that every one might have an opportunity of knowing why a particular name had been included in the electoral roll. Personally he felt that even three months' time would not be too much for doing this work thoroughly. And then, to dispose of objection petitions, only a week's time had been given at present. This he considered was absolutely insufficient for the purpose. The revising authority should give notices, etc., and then dispose of the objections, and it was only after all these stages were gone through that the final lists could be published. He also thought that the Registering Officers could in certain cases take action *suo moto* in respect of inclusion of names. But the calendar of events as already issued did not leave sufficient time for all that. This was the first time that an electoral roll under a revised constitution with a vastly extended franchise was being prepared and so, any amount of time taken over it could be justified, so that no elector qualified to

vote under the revised arrangement would have any ground for complaint. For all these reasons, he thought that it was quite necessary to postpone the elections.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG said that elections must be held on the date fixed for them and should on no account be postponed. It was already eight months since the Reforms Committee's report and the Government Order thereon were published and those who were anxious to know what further rights and responsibilities had been given to the people ought to have read them and understood the implications by now. If they had not done that, it was nobody's fault. Postponement of elections at this juncture was sure to give room for unnecessary agitation in the State. It would be something like cancelling a revenue sale once held. Also, just as people would relish fresh food much better than stale food, early introduction of reforms would have its own charm and people would work them enthusiastically. If the reforms were delayed, the enthusiasm of the public would wane. After all, there was nothing to be gained by postponing the elections. On the other hand, a lot of expenditure already incurred in connection with the printing of electoral rolls, etc., would go to waste if elections were put off. Again, a few months hence, these would have to be reprinted at a heavy cost. At a time when every possible economy was called for, there was no sort of justification whatever in wasting public money. For these reasons he opposed the resolution.

Mr. B. DONDE GOWDA, while agreeing with the previous speaker that fresh food would be better relished than stale food, observed that if the food was swallowed while it was too hot, the eater would have to pay dearly for it. The same would be the case in respect of elections also. As Mr. Khaja Syed Yusuf Sahib had rightly pointed out, the villagers did not know their rights and some more time was wanted by them to understand these things. Also the necessary corrections in the rolls had to be made. For these reasons, it was very desirable to postpone the elections to the next year. On this ground, he supported the resolution.

Mr. H. C. SUBBANNA NAIK said that if the members who had opposed the resolution had any idea of the conditions in the malnad during the rainy season, they would not have pressed for elections being conducted in September as fixed in the calendar of events. In the year 1933, elections to the two Houses were postponed as a result of the members bringing to notice the difficulties in the way of conducting elections in the malnad during the rainy season. The reasons adduced then held good even now. It would be difficult not only for the people but also for the concerned officers because there was no certainty, due to floods, of their reaching the polling stations in time. Even revenue collections in the malnad would be practically over before June and a perusal of the records would show that collections would be practically nil during the months of July, August and September as it would be impossible for the Revenue authorities to go to the several villages and make collections. To reach places like Kotigehar, Kigga, Sringere, Guluganjimane, etc., from the district headquarter, it would take 24 hours or more and if there were rains, some of them could not be reached at all. In these circumstances, he supported the resolution.

Mr. K. MARULAPPA brought to notice that the Deputy Commissioner of the Kadur District was once stranded for as many as nine days on account of rains. In view of such experience, he also supported the resolution

Mr. TIPPU SULTAN ALI KHAN said that the elections would have to be conducted according to the rules framed under the new Acts. The point to be considered was whether this was an opportune time for holding such elections. On account of war, people had no peace of mind and no one could say with any amount of certainty as to what would happen in the near future. In such conditions, no other country would have thought of reforms. The question how far the reforms given under such conditions would be beneficial and satisfactory had to be considered

One of the members was heard to say that the war in Europe had nothing to do with the question of reforms in the State. That was not the correct way of looking at things. Personally the speaker had all along been of the opinion that responsible government should not be given until the people became responsible. Conscription should be introduced as the first step, people should realise their responsibilities next, and then only should responsible government be introduced. This was hardly the time for conducting elections under the new rules. With these remarks, he supported the resolution.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO said that in the present conditions, it was not possible to forecast what was in store for the world in the near future. Taking into consideration the international situation, even His Highness the Maharaja had ordered that the usual Birthday Procession should be dropped. Secondly, the representatives from all the nine districts of the State had explained in vivid terms how difficult it would be not only for the candidates but also for the electors and officers of the Government if elections were held in the rainy season. During the rainy season, the agriculturists would be busily engaged in their avocations and even if a candidate went to them a number of times and canvassed votes, he could not be certain of getting their votes because the electors would go on promising their votes to any and every candidate approaching them. In addition to canvassing votes, therefore, the candidates had to take the electors in cars and buses to the polling stations, feed them and bring them back to their homes after the voting was over. If for any reason the polling was to continue the next day, the electors would have no shelter for the night. Apart from that, they would be more anxious to get back to their homes before nightfall as there would be none to look after their families. For this reason, they would have to be taken back in the night and brought again to the polling station the next morning. Above all, there was no guarantee of the polling officer himself reaching the polling station in time on account of floods. In the maidan parts also, the conditions would be no better during the rainy season.

There was also another point to be taken note of in this connection. As a result of the widening of the franchise, the number of electors had increased and intending candidates would have to do a great deal of canvassing for votes. Many of the electors did not know their own rights and some of them would be unaware of their names being included in the electoral roll at all. The candidates had to look to these things, educate the electors and secure their votes. To do all these things during the rainy season would be an uphill task for any candidate, however earnest. Continuing, the speaker said that it might be argued that there was no justification to postpone giving effect to the reforms so graciously sanctioned by His Highness the Maharaja. He had also heard it said that the members were pressing for the putting off of the elections with a selfish motive, *viz.*, to continue as members for some more time. That was certainly not the case because the sitting members of the House would gain nothing by continuing as such just for a few months more. There were practical difficulties in the way of holding elections in September and that was why the request for postponement was being made. With these words, he supported the resolution.

Mr. MISRILALL PARASMALL spoke in English as follows:—Sir, many friends have expressed their views both in support of and in opposition to this resolution. I also wish to express my view on this resolution and it is that the elections might be postponed up to next March in the interests of the raiyats, merchants and the general public. At present the public is interested in keenly watching the international situation created by the war and it would be detrimental to their interests if their attention is diverted to the election campaign. I do admit that Government have already spent a lot of money and time in making the necessary arrangements for holding the elections in September next. With the

good will of introducing reforms in the State as soon as possible, Government have fulfilled their first duty by announcing the date of election. But now, as most of the elected members of the Assembly themselves request for postponement of elections up to March next, I request the benign Government to do the needful although it may be inconvenient for them, as it is their duty to look first to the convenience of their subjects than their own.

Mr. K. C. SUBBANNA, in supporting the resolution, said that the elections should be put off not merely till March 1941, but till after the international situation improved. The present was not an opportune time for incurring all the heavy expenditure which elections were bound to entail. Only the previous day the Sugar Excise Bill had been placed before the House as a means of finding extra funds for war purposes. Even now he suggested that the amount now set apart for elections might be utilised for war purposes.

Mr. G. MALLANNA also supported the resolution. He did not believe that every elector knew his responsibilities, was able to go to the polling station and give his vote to the most deserving of candidates. Such a stage of perfection had not been reached even in advanced countries like America. He had recently read in papers that a certain candidate in America had in the course of his election campaign delivered 150 lectures; got abuses from 18 women; got bitten by 12 dogs; spent thousands of dollars, and yet he could not succeed in the election. When that was the case in advanced countries, the difficulties of candidates in this State, where most of the people were illiterate, could easily be realised. In spite of all the canvassing done and all conveniences provided for the electors to go to the polling station and return to their homes, the candidates might not get votes from all of them. In the rainy season particularly, the electors might not go to the polling station at all. As the number of electors had considerably increased on account of the extended franchise, and as they would take some time to understand the new rules, it would not be desirable to hurry up the elections.

Mr. S. K. SHANMUGIAH brought to notice that some time in 1938, 8 or 10 persons in the Manjarabad Taluk were drowned while attempting to ford streams. This was so common in the malnad and it would be very undesirable to hold elections in the rainy season. For this reason, he was in favour of the elections being put off till March 1941.

Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA said that though every one was anxious to enjoy the fruits of the reforms, yet, for reasons mentioned by the previous speakers, it was desirable to postpone the elections. Even in the cities, many electors would not go to the polling stations on account of rains. That being so, it would be idle to expect illiterate electors in the rural parts to go all the way to the polling booths. Only three or four members had opposed the resolution for reasons of their own, but almost the entire House was in favour of postponement and Government should accede to that request.

Mr. SYED MOHIYUDDIN HUSSEIN said that so far as the Mahomedan community was concerned, it had been given the benefit of a separate electorate under the new reforms. Five seats in the Legislative Council and thirty in the Representative Assembly had been assigned to that community. So far as the Legislative Council was concerned, for each of the seats, two or three districts formed one constituency, and in the case of the Representative Assembly, three or four taluks formed one single constituency. How difficult it would be for the candidates to cover all that area in the course of their canvassing, particularly in the rainy season, could not be easily described. The community being backward in education the electors were unable to exercise their franchise properly and for that reason, the difficulties of the Muslim candidates were greater than in the case of others.

Another point was that due to war, no one had peace of mind. Everyone at the moment was anxiously praying that the cause of the Allies should succeed. At such a time, nobody had

the heart to take part in elections. Besides, a precedent of elections having been postponed in the past due to rainy season was also brought to notice. Similarly now he was in favour of the elections being put off till March 1941 by which time he hoped the war also would have come to a successful termination.

Mr. LINGAPPA said that he had lost a pair of fine bullocks and a cart, the same having been washed off by floods some years back. In view of that experience and also of the present day conditions, he urged that elections be put off as requested.

Mr. K. N. PUTTANNA did not agree with the expectation of Mr. M. B. Gurulingiah that as a result of change in the direction of winds, there might not be heavy rains in September. Disagreeing also with the suggestion that the elections might be proceeded with, the speaker stated that the rains in that part of the year would be very heavy indeed and the electors would be subjected to a lot of inconvenience if the elections were held at that time. In many places where there was not sufficient accommodation for polling stations, the electors would have to remain on the roadside even if there should be heavy downpour of rain. Besides that, a lot of work was expected to be done by the candidates, as already stated, by way of educating the electors as they were illiterate and did not know how to exercise their rights and privileges, and for that sufficient time had to be allowed. In Chamarajanagar Taluk, unfortunately, the difficulties of the candidates were aggravated by the circumstance that it was very difficult to get literate agents who could help them in educating the electors. The member narrated a recent occurrence in his taluk, *viz.*, that in connection with the District Board elections both congressmen and others had stood for election that certain independent candidates had asked some of the electors to vote for the three candidates whose names appeared at the top of the list, that the congress candidates somehow came to know of this, and because their names were lower down in the list, they asked the electors to vote for the three candidates whose names appeared at the bottom. From this, the member stated, it was clear that the electors had no discretion of their own. Even in the next elections, he feared, there would be nothing to prevent such things happening unless the electors were educated properly. There was also one other point to be taken note of. Mr. Khaji Syed Yusuf Sahib had brought to notice that the electoral rolls of certain Muslim constituencies had not been prepared correctly and that names which ought to have been included in them had been omitted. The electors themselves might not sometimes make sure that their names were in the list. At least the candidates had to look to this, educate the voters and canvass votes. All these would require some more time. In the circumstances mentioned, elections could not be conducted satisfactorily in September. For all these reasons he supported the resolution.

Mr. T. L. GANGOJI RAO SALANKEY said that the members had already referred to the difficulties which people in malnad and also in maidan parts of the State would be put to if elections were conducted in September. Some had also referred to the international situation and urged that in view of the prevailing uncertainty, election ought to be postponed. The Government had provided in the budget of the coming year a sum of Rs. 1,25,000 for election expenses. The people for their part had to spend lakhs of rupees on their election campaign. He did not think that all this expenditure could be justified at the present time when local bodies and others were expected to make liberal donations to the War Relief Fund. In the United Provinces, elections to local bodies had been postponed in view of war conditions. For these reasons, he thought that it would be wise on the part of the Government to put off the elections till the international situation improved.

Lokasevaniratha BALE SIDDALINGA SETTY said that in the month of September, the agriculturists would be

more particular about their agricultural operations than going to the polling stations, and as such it was a very inconvenient period for them to take part in elections. Even apart from that, there was another very powerful consideration on account of which elections should not be proceeded with. Every one was worried by the present war situation and had no peace of mind to take part in elections. People owing loyalty to the Paramount Power ought not to fritter their time and money on activities like elections. On the other hand, they should try their best to augment the War Relief Fund. In this view, the member suggested that the amount now allotted for elections might be given away to this fund and the elections put off till after the war was over. With these remarks he supported the resolution.

Mr. ISTHURI SAMPANGI RAMIAH said that very few members had opposed the resolution and even those few had not been able to adduce convincing arguments in favour of the position taken up by them. Speaking for himself, he was in favour of the resolution. Elections in September would mean inconvenience not only to the candidates and electors, but also to the Government. Granting that it was now decided to go ahead with the elections, he feared that polling officers themselves might not in some cases be able to reach the polling stations, in which case the elections would have to be postponed at the last minute. Instead of having to face such eventualities, Government would do well now alone to put off the elections till March next.

Mr. K. VENKATASAMIAH said that the object of the resolution was not to put off the reforms indefinitely. Under the reforms, franchise had been extended to a large extent and the electoral rolls would have to be prepared with all the due care. But unfortunately, as was stated by one of the Muslim members of the House, the preparation of the electoral rolls so far was not satisfactory. The speaker was also personally aware of certain omissions in the electoral rolls. Should there be many such mistakes in them, the voters would have to take the consequences for four long years. Imperfections in the rolls were quite likely for the reason that sufficient time had not been allowed for the preparation of the rolls and mistakes had crept in. So even at the risk of postponing elections, the rolls should be revised and made absolutely correct. The preparation of the electoral rolls under the revised rules was something like carrying on census operations and sufficient time ought to be taken over it. Otherwise the elections themselves would not be satisfactory to all the interests concerned. A delay of a few months would not after all matter much. Nobody in the House was asking for postponement with any selfish motive. It was in the larger interests of the State that the matter was being pressed on the attention of the House. It was any day better to wait for some more time and derive the best possible results than rush through the elections and get disappointed in the end. For these reasons, he supported the resolution.

Mr. HUSSEIN ALI BEIG said that he was well aware of the conditions during the rainy season both in the malnad and in the maidan parts of the State. Speaking of the malnad in particular, he said that it would be difficult to go from one place to another due not only to want of inter-village communications but also to floods. More than the others, the members of the community enjoying a separate electorate, *viz.*, Mahomedans, would have to undergo great hardship in view of the very much larger areas to be covered by candidates of that community in the course of their canvassing. For this reason, he supported the resolution.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH said that those who had opposed the resolution had advanced among others the argument that the amount so far spent on elections would go to waste if they were postponed. He did not think it would be so. The same rolls could be made use of with the necessary additions and alterations. The rolls need not necessarily be reprinted.

Continuing, the speaker said that it was a healthy principle to provide for

an opposition, as was suggested by Mr. M. Subbiah, but it was also necessary that for such of those as had loyally co-operated with the Government, enough opportunities should be created for educating the voters in the right direction and securing their votes. That would not be possible if elections were held in September, and the laudable object of the Government that the best available representatives of the different interests should secure seats on the constitutional assemblies under the reforms, would be frustrated. Canvassing in remote country parts had its own peculiar difficulties which were not experienced by candidates in towns and cities. As was mentioned by Mr. Khaji Syed Yusuf Sahib, electoral rolls would be published only at a few places and claims and objections would be heard only at district headquarter towns as at present arranged. These would add to the difficulties of the people. It was desirable that electoral rolls were published and if possible claims and objections also heard and disposed of in each village *chavadi*. In any case, it was necessary that the candidates were given some time for educating the voters and that elections were held at a time when seasonal conditions were such as to enable the agriculturists to participate in them.

Messrs. T. SYED KHAJA PEERAN SAHIB, B. CHANNAPPA and **H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR** also supported the resolution.

Mr. ABDUL RASOOL SAB said that as the international situation was very uncertain at present owing to the war and as the Muslim candidates who had to cover very large areas in the course of their canvassing work would be put to great hardship if elections were held in September, the same should be put off by at least six months.

Rao Sahib M. RAMASWAMY said that although he was anxious that elections should take place as early as possible, he was inclined to support the resolution in view of the present international situation and the difficulties already brought to notice by a large number of members. People had no peace of mind and every one was thinking of nothing but war effort. So, this was hardly the time for elections. The term of the assemblies had already been extended by a few months and it might as well be further extended by a few months.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK said that as a result of Government having rushed through the preparation of electoral rolls, the claims of the members of the Banajara Association at Arsikere had been lost sight of. The Association had brought this to the notice of the Government but the association was told that it was too late for them to do anything and it was also possible that some other interests were similarly lost sight of. He prayed that sufficient time be given for a more thorough preparation of the electoral rolls. For this reason, he also supported the resolution.

Replying on behalf of Government, **Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU** said that the discussions that had taken place so far had made it clear that, with very few exceptions, the House was definitely of opinion that the elections should be postponed till the following year. Having regard to the decisions of Government, the speaker 's own idea before following the present discussion was that the resolution should be opposed. Government were really anxious to give effect as quickly as possible to the constitutional reforms recently vouchsafed by His Highness the Maharaja and with this object in view every item of the preliminary work connected with the elections had been pushed through without allowing any delay to occur at any stage. The Acts had been issued already, the rules also had been promulgated and the calendar of events connected with the elections was also issued. All that was proof positive, if any proof was called for, of Government's eagerness to see that no time was lost in giving effect to their orders on the recommendations of the Reform Committee.

But the present discussion had brought to light many powerful reasons, in addition to those mentioned in the resolution, in favour of postponing the elections. Not merely the movers of the resolution, not merely those coming

from the malnad parts of the State, but representatives from all the districts had spoken in practically the same strain. They had made it clear that holding of elections during the rainy season would mean considerable hardship to both voters and candidates. They had also reminded Government that, on the same ground, elections to the two constitutional Houses originally notified to take place in the rainy season had been put off in 1933, the term of both the Houses being extended by a few months and even the deposits received from intending candidates being returned to them. The arguments advanced by those participating in the present discussion related also to the necessity for a careful preparation of the electoral rolls, the possibility of these having to be revised in view of claims and objections, the difficulties connected with the candidates having to educate their voters whose names were to be found for the first time in the electoral rolls consequent upon the vastly extended franchise, for which sufficient time had to be allowed. They also noted the point stressed by one of the Muslim members, Mr. Khaji Syed Yusuf Sahib, *viz.*, that the electoral rolls already published actually contained some omissions and that the time necessary for supplying them would have to be taken into consideration. In particular, it had been promptly brought to notice that consequent upon the vastly extended franchise, the number of claims and objections were likely to be much larger than in the past.

Another reason advanced by most of the members who had favoured the resolution was that the world just now was passing through a critical stage owing to the war, that the international situation had on that account been rendered uncertain and that no one was able to devote undivided attention to elections. There was no doubt that that was an important point to be taken note of before coming to a decision on the question under consideration.

In addition to all the arguments advanced by members, there was also another point deserving of consideration. The representative Assembly and the Legislative Council Rules so far issued were not complete. The last batch of rules were under issue and these might be expected to be notified within a week or two. Both electors and candidates would naturally require some time to understand these rules. Further, the new rules provided for the appointment of election agents, maintenance of accounts, etc., which were not in vogue so far. These things would have to be clearly understood by the candidates and their agents. Government would bear all these considerations in mind while coming to a decision on the request contained in this resolution. At the moment, the speaker was inclined to sympathise with the position taken up by a majority of members of the House. But he could not immediately say anything definite or final. Government would consult the Legislative Council which was due to meet within a few days and then take such action as might appear suitable.

As requested by Mr. Bhupalam R. Chandrasekharayya, the resolution was put to the vote and was passed by a vast majority.

Resolution No. 1.

Compulsory Primary Education.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution on behalf of himself and Messrs. B. R. Kavetirangappa, Singam Rangaswamappa, A. N. Rama Rao, B. M. Muniswamappa, Patel Veere Gowda, Patel Hanume Gowda, S. L. Muddubasaviah and M. B. Gurulingiah :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that primary education in Mysore State be made compulsory as the people would not become sufficiently literate in the absence of such compulsion."

In doing so, the mover said that this was not the first time that a resolution to this effect had come before the House. He was personally aware that this subject had come up for discussion many times in the past and about 20 years ago Government had also given effect to it in certain parts of the

State. In spite of the heavy expenditure incurred by the Government for increasing the percentage of literacy in the State, so far only 8 per cent of the people were literate. The neighbouring States of Cochin and Travancore had, in this respect, advanced two or three times more than Mysore had done. It was regrettable to note that Mysore, which had earned the reputation of a "Model State" and "Rama Rajya" and which was an example for the whole world in most respects, should lag behind other countries in the matter of literacy. The only way to improve the percentage of literacy in the State was by introducing compulsory primary education. The speaker was anxious that Government should do so without any further delay and see to it that illiteracy was stamped out of the State in the course of a few years. With these words, he commended the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA, in seconding the resolution, said that both the Government and the municipalities were doing their best to spread education but their efforts had not so far been successful. Though the revenue of the Cochin State was very much less than that of the Mysore State, the percentage of literacy was very much higher in the former State. The reason for such a low percentage of literacy in the latter State was due to the fact that many young children of school-going age were not being sent to school. Many thousands of young boys who should have been studying were employed in shops on small wages of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 a month. If primary education was made compulsory, and all these children were forced to attend school, the State would make rapid strides in respect of literacy and the money spent on primary education would be well spent. The speaker hoped that every member would support the resolution.

Mr. R. GOPALASWAMY IYER opposed the resolution for the following reasons: At present as much as 25 per cent of primary schools in the mofussil were located in Bhajana Mandirams or in the localities where caste Hindus lived. As a result of this, Adikarnataka boys could not attend such schools. That was why, though there were about a lakh of Adikarnataka boys of school-going age, many were not attending schools. The Bombay and Madras Governments had made a rule that such of the schools as were not thrown open to untouchables should be removed. Under that rule, the Government schools should be removed to more convenient places within three years or would be abolished, and in the case of aided schools the school grant would be stopped, unless Adikarnataka pupils seeking admission were admitted. In Mysore State there was no such rule. If the Government should introduce compulsory education the speaker suggested that the schools—both Government and aided—should be thrown open to Adikarnataka boys and girls whether the institutions were run in buildings of their own or in temples, *chavadies*, etc. Otherwise, he feared, the scheme could not be worked satisfactorily. Secondly, it was no doubt true that the test of civilisation of a nation was the preparedness of its citizens to be taxed for the benefits they derived. But the citizens were not in a position to bear any additional burden in this behalf due to their low economic condition. To introduce primary education throughout the State, it would cost Government not less than Rs. 1 crore At present only 15 per cent of the children of school-going age were actually attending schools, and Government were spending about Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakhs on this grade of education. The State should be prepared to spend very much more if compulsion should be introduced. It was a point for Government to consider whether they could afford to meet this additional expenditure.

Thirdly, there were between 8,000 to 10,000 deaf and dumb children in the State and they would also come under the operation of the compulsory education scheme and Government would have to increase the number of deaf and dumb schools also, but in the speaker's opinion such a course would not be practicable.

The speaker then referred to the disadvantages resulting from the

introduction of compulsion. Children born of defective parents, as also those who could not stand the strain of education, would have to go either to mental hospitals or to jails under the compulsory education scheme. At a time when everybody was agitating for freedom of action such compulsion whether on the unwilling children or their parents would not be desirable. Also, children born of defective parents would be abnormal, weak or delinquent and would have to be given special kind of education and not the same as that given to normal children. Otherwise they would become misfits among the citizens of the State. For all these reasons he opposed the resolution.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY also opposed the resolution. He said that though compulsory education was desirable, it was not practicable at present since all the villages were not provided with schools and other facilities required. Under such circumstances he could not understand how compulsory education could be introduced and how the parents who did not conform to rules could be punished. It was because of these practical difficulties that the Act had so long remained a dead letter. If the Act should be strictly enforced, Government should provide a school at least for every group of villages. Introducing compulsory primary education first and then starting schools would be something like putting the cart before the horse. This was essentially a question of funds and Government must first consider the ways and means of providing the same.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH stated that the resolution was no doubt an important one because it was certainly desirable that every child in the State must be given education at least up to the primary standard. But how far it was practicable was a matter to be considered. From that point of view, he was sorry to have to oppose the resolution. As Mr. Vema Ready had pointed out, out of 17,000 odd villages in the State, only 6,000 odd villages had schools, and as many as 3,000 to 4,000 were single-teacher schools. There were 4 classes in each school and even at the rate of 15 boys in each class, there would be 60 to 70 boys. How a single teacher could manage all these 4 classes, and what benefit the children would derive, were matters which he would leave to the members to imagine. There was no doubt that the work was of a very poor quality in every single-teacher school. If the teacher took ill or went on leave for any other reason, no substitute was being appointed, and the school would remain closed for days or weeks together. Substitutes were being sent by the department only when the permanent incumbent went on leave for a sufficiently long period and not otherwise. The Elementary Education Committee which the Government had recently appointed, had stated that the expenditure on primary education at present was in a very large measure going to waste and recommended by way of putting a stop to it that in every village school there must be at least two teachers. Otherwise the number of children in each higher class would get reduced. The test of a proper return for all the expenditure incurred on education would be that all the boys in the first year class must in their own time go right up to the Middle School stage at least. If Government wanted to accept the resolution and introduce compulsory education in the State, they would have to be prepared to provide the necessary buildings and establishments including inspecting staff adequate for the entire State. So, the speaker suggested that wherever people wanted more schools, and parents promised to send their children to school, compulsory primary education might be introduced as a first step and the schools converted into two-teacher schools. After that, as a second stage, a central school might be established for every group of villages. And finally compulsion might be gradually introduced in places where parents were not sending their children to school. The scheme of compulsory education was tried in certain areas in Maddur and it was a failure because the schools had no sufficient accommodation for all the pupils seeking admission. In not even a single place did it work successfully.

The member suggested that the surplus shown in the budget of the coming year might be ear-marked for opening schools in places in which there were at present no schools.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (Mr. E. G. McAlpine) spoke as follows:—

"Sir, the resolution to introduce compulsory elementary education is unexceptionable in theory but completely unworkable in practice. It is impossible to give exact calculations of what compulsion would cost. But I can give this House rough figures which will, I think convince any one that at the moment any such scheme is financially out of the question. If that is the case, there is no point in discussing the matter any further. Roughly one-third of the number of children in this State are in our primary schools and they cost us Rs. 23 lakhs a year recurring. If you were to take in the other two-thirds, it is going to cost Rs. 46 lakhs in addition to the Rs. 23 lakhs that it is costing now. In addition to that, it is going to cost you an expanded inspectorate, additional cost of up-keep of additional buildings; and altogether you can reckon that the additional cost is not going to be far short of Rs. 55 to Rs. 60 lakhs a year recurring. And then, non-recurring: roughly we have 6,000 schools, and there are 16,000 villages in the State. We could not put a school into every village, but it is reckoned that if you put a school into 10,000 villages out of the 16,000, you could nearly achieve compulsion and give universal education. That means you have got 4,000 more schools to build at about Rs. 2,000 a school. In addition to that, perhaps a quarter of your schools are inaccessible to the depressed classes. So, you have to build another 1,500 schools to accommodate them. If you take the total non-recurring cost, including the additional rooms that would have to be built for the present schools to cope with additional numbers, I do not think your non-recurring cost would be much short of a crore and a half of rupees, and your recurring cost as I have already said, would not be much short of Rs. 60 lakhs a year. Now, in the face of these figures it is idle to talk about compulsion. The committee recently appointed to enquire into the working of the Elementary Education Act has proposed to Government the starting of 1,000 new primary schools in the next few years. A very material advance will have been made if Government find the means to implement that scheme, but that they can think of compulsion this year, or in the next few years, is financially out of the question.

There is one other aspect, sir. Compulsion does not exist, in the proper sense of the word, anywhere in India, for the simple reason that there is no civic consciousness that it is a crime not to send children to school. Unless the public have reached that frame of mind, it is no use putting theoretical compulsion into operation without strictly enforcing it. The people would not stand it. In Great Britain and other countries where compulsion exists it is strictly enforced. If a parent does not send his child to school, he is brought before a Magistrate and is fined, and if necessary even imprisoned, and he is regarded as a criminal against society. India is years away from a mentality of that kind, particularly in rural districts. Every one of you, gentlemen, knows perfectly well what the consequences would be, if you proposed to imprison a raiyat for not sending his children to school (Laughter).

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA said that education was very backward in the villages. If the villagers really wanted to educate their children, they could do so even with the existing schools. Even a sixth of the number of children were not attending schools, because the parents were not particular about educating their children. They were satisfied if their boys went to the fields or looked after their cattle. Because the villager was lacking in education, even deserving children were not getting on well. The resolution was no doubt a very desirable one because it sought to educate the rural folk. The Director of Public Instruction had said that compulsory education would cost prohibitively. But the speaker did not agree with the Director

of Public Instruction in that view. There was no need to compel every one of the children to attend school. In his view it was sufficient if at least one boy in each family was compelled to go to school. The present state of affairs was such that even one literate boy was not available in each village. For these reasons he supported the resolution.

Mr. V. VENKATASWAMY CHETTY, in supporting the Director of Public Instruction's point of view, stated that people were not making full use of the already existing schools. He had personally gone round some villages and enquired about the working of the schools there. As a result of this enquiry he had come to know that the schools were not working regularly, and that in some cases they remained closed for 8 or 10 days continuously, presumably because the teacher was not in the station. In many villages things were far from satisfactory. It was only when parents were anxious to educate their children that compulsion could be of any use. Even the School Board Officers could not afford to inspect the schools more than once a year. So what was happening was that the school masters enlisted the sympathies of the Shanbhog or Patel or other influential persons in the village and continued to be irregular in his work and attendance. He suggested therefore that Government should formulate a scheme of compulsion, to be introduced in stages within a period of 15 or 20 years, and see that every year the scheme was introduced in some taluks. That would mean that in each year's budget Government should provide additional funds specially for the purpose.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA said that the discussion which had so far taken place reminded him of the saying that until a person could swim he would not get into the water, and unless he got into water he could not learn swimming. On the same analogy unless children were compelled to attend schools they could not be made to learn and unless the people were anxious about educating their children they would not send them to schools, and under such circumstances there was no use in having any law. He was of opinion that there must be the fear among the people that if they did not send their children to school action would be taken against them. He was afraid that the scheme of compulsion might cost about 2 or 3 crores of rupees. But as the Director of Public Instruction himself had put it, it was only Rs. 1½ crores, and Government would do well to sanction the expenditure. When income-tax was proposed, Government had promised to ear-mark the revenue towards education. The income from income-tax was small in the first few years but it had gone up enormously in recent years and yet nothing out of it had been provided for education. Though the revenue of the State had risen up to Rs. 4 odd crores, a sum of only Rs. 20 lakhs had been provided for primary education. Education on proper lines was necessary for every one, and the State ought to allot all the funds necessary for providing the same.

Mr. E. G. McALPINE again spoke as follows :—

"The difficulty in the way of expansion has been that since the introduction of the Elementary Education Act of 1931, Government have been willing to find their share of the money, provided the local authorities were willing to find theirs. But I am afraid that it is true to say that generally local education authorities were not willing to find the money. Government would have been willing to pay their share, and if there has not been expansion in the last 9 years under the Act, the fault has not been primarily with Government."

Mr. K. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO observed that perhaps the Act had to be blamed for it.

The PRESIDENT replied that the Act would be revised shortly.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA enquired as to why the Government should not take over the powers now vested in the local education authorities.

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. J.

Appaji Gowda) replied that that was also one of the suggestions of the special committee and that it would be considered in due course.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO enquired as to what the opinion of the Government was regarding that suggestion.

The PRESIDENT replied that as the question was under consideration, he could not say anything definite at present.

Mr. V. VENKATASWAMY CHETTY requested that at least in future, the revenue from income-tax might be earmarked for education.

In replying to the debate, **Mr. B. L. BYANNA** said that the opposition of Mr. R. Gopalaswamy Iyer had only exhibited his affection to the Adikarnataka students and beyond that there was nothing substantial in the argument advanced by him. Referring to the view expressed by Mr. L. Vema Reddy that until schools were established in all the villages, compulsion could not effectively be introduced, he reminded the member that "Rome was not built in a day" and that expansion must necessarily be a slow and steady process. Another argument put forward by Mr. V. Venkataswami Chetty was that even the existing schools were not working properly and any unwieldy experiment in the shape of introducing compulsion would be a waste of both energy and funds. His reply to that argument was that wherever there were schools at present this experiment might be tried. The irregularities in the working of these schools might be set right and the schools placed on a sound basis. He was sorry to hear that some of the schools were being closed for days together. If the local authorities had not rectified such irregularities it disclosed a sorry state of affairs. With officers of that type no progress would be possible even if compulsion was introduced. If therefore compulsory education was to be introduced, it was very necessary that officers who were really interested in the welfare of the rising generation should be employed on the work.

Referring to the remarks made by Mr. S. C. Malliah, the speaker wondered why in the year of grace 1940, Mr. Malliah had retract from the position he had all along taken up. He had himself discussed and supported this question of introduction of compulsory primary education in the past, and the speaker was not aware of the reasons for the change that had come over the member. It was a happy feature, however, that Government were anxious to spread education in the State and this was evident from the additional grant of Rs. 3 lakhs in the next year's budget.

The Director of Public Instruction had said that in England compulsion was a success because there was social consciousness among the people, and that for want of such consciousness in India the scheme of compulsion would not be a success. The speaker thought that the Director of Public Instruction, coming as he did from British Isles, was the fittest person to bring about such a consciousness, to introduce the scheme of compulsion and to work that scheme successfully.

Proceeding, the speaker reminded the House that he was one of those who had opposed the Elementary Education Act when it was introduced. He had a fight in this connection with Mr. H. C. Dasappa in the House. He had no faith in the success of the scheme then and had none even now. For these reasons he felt that the earlier it was abolished the better it would be for all concerned. The present system was under a dual control of officials and non-officials and it was not always that both officials and non-officials could work together smoothly. The non-officials had always suffered from an inferiority complex. In the villages the percentage of literacy was said to be 8 but really it was even less. There were many schools in the village which were not functioning. They should be resuscitated and made to function on sound lines. He said that the people in the cities were trying their best to educate their children but the trouble was mainly in the villages, where all people were illiterate. This was why they easily believed in people who misrepresented facts about the administration of the State. The Director

of Public Instruction had shifted the responsibility for this state of affairs in the villages on to the shoulders of the local education authorities. But the speaker would ask how they could be blamed when they consisted of representatives who were themselves not educated. And even where local education authorities had sent up schemes, the Director of Public Instruction had returned them on some ground or other. In these circumstances he requested Government to accept the resolution at least in principle

The PRESIDENT observed that the object of Government was that education must spread rapidly in the State and that the percentage of literacy should increase. They were making all possible efforts towards that end. But he regretted that the resolution could not be accepted in the form in which it was now before the House.

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.

The House rose for lunch at 3-20 p m. and met again at 3-50 p.m.

Lunch Arrangements.

Mr. C. V. RAMAN complained about the quality of lunch that was catered in the Assembly and said that the authorities could not be congratulated on their choice of the caterer. Personally, he felt that the existing arrangements might be done away with if a better quality of lunch could not be supplied.

Mr. M. ABDUL JABBAR SAHIB, L. VEMA REDDY and **D. VENKATARAMANAPPA**, stated that they were satisfied with the quality of the lunch.

The PRESIDENT instructed the Secretary to see that the quality of lunch improved.

Resolution No. 2.

Levy of Fees in Middle Schools

Mr. B. L. BYANNA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the idea of levying fees in the Middle Schools of the State be dropped."

In doing so, he said that he was glad to find that the revenue budget of the ensuing year did not provide for any receipts under "fee income from middle schools." All the same, the reference made to the question in the Dewan's Opening Address to the Assembly had unnerved several members Because even when there was no fee, many a student was unable to go in for text-books as they were all costly. If the fees be re-imposed, he feard that several students would have to abandon their education. By such a step mostly the village pupils would be hit hard. For these reasons, he appealed to the Government to drop the idea of levying fees in middle schools.

In seconding the resolution, **Mr. L. VEMA REDDY** explained that the very same question had come up before the Assembly during Sir Banerji's dewanship but that it was not pursued by the Government as a result of the opposition of the members. It was probable that Government anticipated an additional revenue of Rs. 1½ lakhs annually by re-imposing fee; but he feared that the moment it was imposed, a good number of pupils would drop off automatically and the authorities would be disappointed in their expectation.

The PRESIDENT replied that the question would be reconsidered by Government in connection with the new Elementary Education Bill which might be introduced at the next session.

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Resolution No. 3.

Separation of Water Rate and Dry Assessment levied on certain Wet Lands.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHI ACHAR moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that rules be amended so as to separate the water rate and the dry assessment included in the assessment levied on wet lands and to remit the water-rate in cases of scanty supply of water for wet crops and further to assess one and a half times the assessment on such lands where both *kartika* and *vaishaki* crops are raised."

He explained that under the existing remission rules, if under any tank the

crop raised fell short of 4 annas in value, half the wet assessment would be waived and only the other half collected. In certain cases, this rule was altered so as to separate dry asssessment and water-rate. But this did not help many deserving cases. Seeing that tanks were all being fed by rains, in the absence of timely monsoons it would not be possible to raise the second crop and even the first crop would be scanty for lack of adequate water-supply. During the second half of the year, even dry crops could not be grown as the tanks would get dried up. Even if a crop was attempted, the yield would fall below 4 annas in value. All the same, for purposes of Government revenue the officials concerned would have noted the rainfall as adequate and wet crops as having been raised. Thus the raiyats would be denied the benefit of remission.

Proceeding, the speaker said that during the current year, the rains came after the season. Particularly in the Kolar District though there was heavy rainfall, it was not at all helpful for wet crops. But since the revenue records revealed that the rainfall was adequate, the authorities would not recommend remissions. At this rate, the plight of the raiyats had become miserable. With a view to afford relief to the agriculturists, he suggested that (1) the atchkat of tanks might be reduced in proportion to the water available for irrigation, seeing that the tanks had to depend on uncertain rainfall; (2) that dry assessment alone should be levied where only dry crops had been raised; (3) if even dry crops could not be raised, only the cesses should be recovered, waiving even the dry assessment; and (4) to make up for the loss of revenue, 1½ times the assessment might be levied from wet lands raising two crops or more in the year. As regards the last suggestion, he explained that the existing arrangement of levying the same rates on lands yielding double crops and those yielding a single crop was inequitable. He referred to the analogy of Madras where lands on which two crops and more were being raised were assessed to higher rates.

Incidentally, **Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHI ACHAR** expressed the gratefulness of the people of Kolar to the Dewan for undertaking certain major works in the district and implored the Government not to judge the resolution under discussion purely from the revenue point of view but fron the point of view of affording a much-needed relief to the raiyats who were finding it very difficult to pay the assessment.

Mr. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO proposed an amendment for deleting certain words in the resolution which suggested the levy of 1½ times the assessment on lands where two wet crops were grown.

But the mover not having agreed to the amendment, it was dropped.

Mr. Ballam SRINIVASA RAO seconded the resolution. He said that seeing that rain was Nature's gift to man, there was no justification for levying water-rate and dry assessment on lands irrigated by rain-fed tanks. He also felt it equitable to enhance the rates on lands raising two crops and thus affording relief in hard cases.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Rukn ul-Mulk S. Abdul Wajid), speaking on behalf of Government, explained that survey settlement was first introduced in Mysore in 1865 and subsequently a resurvey was also conducted. But Government had no reason to believe that the land revenue system in Mysore caused any great hardship to the raiyats. In fixing the rates of assessment, due regard had been paid to three considerations, *viz.*, (1) soil classification, (2) water classification and (3) situation of the land. Hence the suggestion contained in the resolution for separating dry assessment and water-rate was not acceptable to Government.

The speaker regretted that the arguments advanced for adjusting the atchkats according to the capacity of the tanks were not convincing. Because, it was quite possible to raise two crops with the existing capacity of tanks, provided there were timely rains. Just as full dry crops were being raised with rain water, similar crops could be raised on wet lands also with timely rains.

He was afraid that the generality of the raiyats would not agree to the conversion of wet lands into dry lands as suggested by the mover. In support of this contention, the Revenue Commissioner cited the opinion of the Indian Taxation Committee, which was to the following effect:

"It is obviously out of the question to make a change during the currency of a settlement, which is specially applicable to Mysore where resettlement has just been completed."

The Committee proceeded to say also that:

"there may be difficulty in ever d ing so in the case of old works, at any rate, in view of the creations of vested rights."

Thus the Committee were opposed to the separation of water-rate and dry assessment as advocated in the resolution. Above all, according to the Government Order in force, liberal remissions of wet assessment were being granted in the case of lands under breached tanks, and in all cases of failure of crops.

For these reasons, **Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID** regretted that the resolution could not be accepted.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY, in supporting the resolution, observed the Government could not contend that there was no basis for the complaint of hardships suffered by the raiyats under the present system of land revenue administration.

Proceeding, **Mr. VEMA REDDY** referred to the Revenue Commissioner's observation that if not wet crops, other kinds of crop could be grown on wet lands in the Kolar District and said that excepting in the tracts under the Palar river, neither dry crops nor garden crops could be grown on most of the wet lands because of their moisture and low level. It was not his contention, however, that no assessment should be recovered in the case of failure of wet crops but that instead of half wet assessment, Government should take only dry assessment in such cases. Seeing that the Government were generally responsive to the wishes of the raiyats, he hoped that the resolution would be accepted by them. He also added that as the lands in the Kolar District were irrigated mostly by minor tanks which could not be depended upon for adequate supply of water, the harvest was generally scanty.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID pointed out that lands under minor tanks were all assessed on the basis that only one crop could be grown. Besides, it was always open to the raiyats, in cases where adequate water-supply was lacking, to apply for the conversion of wet lands into dry.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY replied that the raiyats would not agree to such conversion as a permanent measure.

Mr. S. ABDUL WAJID said that if that were so, the raiyats must agree to pay half the wet assessment.

Mr. NARAYANA REDDY represented that in the Kolar District, even once in 10 years the tanks would not receive water sufficient for raising two crops, and that some special concession was called for in the case of that district.

Mr. K. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, who spoke next in support of the resolution, pointed out that two crops could be grown only when the tank received full supply in the proper season. But if only half the supply was received, a single crop alone could be raised. But what the resolution requested was that the water-rate included in the assessment levied on wet lands should be separated and brought under remission.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU replied that no such separation of items was possible as the wet rates fixed under settlement were inclusive rates.

Mr. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO questioned the justification for collecting water-rate when no water was supplied. Government had to take note of the fact that when even perennial crops were drying up, it would not be possible to raise wet crops. If the Government could at least waive the water-rate and charge only dry assessment, the raiyats could grow at least dry crops or be satisfied with raising some fodder crops. Unless the rules were amended to that effect, the speaker was afraid the raiyats would not be satisfied and resolutions of the kind under discussion would become a hardy annual.

The PRESIDENT replied that the principle contained in the resolution would be examined by Government.

Thereupon, the resolution was withdrawn.

Resolution No. 4.

Triennial Programme of Tank Works.

Mr. G. RAMIAH moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that, in accordance with the triennial programme prepared for the construction of new tanks and repair of tanks in the State, the works may be arranged to be executed within the time limit specified therein and more funds allotted for this purpose."

He explained that about two years back the Government had prepared a triennial programme for restoration of tanks in the State and distributed copies of the same to the members of the Assembly The members had fervently hoped that works mentioned in the programme would be put on hand by the Public Works Department. But to their great surprise, the members found that new works not included in the programme had been taken up and those provided for in the programme left untouched. While making this statement, the speaker had particularly two items in his mind and they were the Niraksandra project and Voddarahallikere project, both in the Tumkur District. For the former project, an estimate amounting to Rs. 3 lakhs had been prepared many years ago and a promise was made that a sum of Rs. 10,000 would be provided in the budget for 1940–41. Still the budget did not contain any provision for this item. Similarly, as regards the second project, a sum of Rs. 12 000 was proposed to be provided in the budget for 1939–40 alone; but this was not done. Apart from these two cases, several important works pertaining to various taluks had been included in the triennial programme and if that programme had been adhered to, every taluk in the State would have been helped. As he himself was aware, these two tanks had been included in the programme but not taken up yet. He had reason to believe that many other tanks had shared the fate of the two projects mentioned by him.

The member then referred to the principle that should guide the Government n the preparation of such programmes. They should come to a definite conclusion after considering the importance and urgency of the projects and after a thorough examination of each from all aspects as to which of the works must be taken up and in what order. Once a decision was reached and a programme chalked out, they should adhere to it at all costs. It would not be fair for the Government to give up any of the works subsequently. He had no doubt that the triennial programme under advertence had been prepared on those lines and appealed to the Government to see that in future at least, the programme was not deviated from.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA seconded the resolution.

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Mr. N. Sarabhoja) speaking on behalf of Government explained that there were practical difficulties in adhering strictly to the triennial programme. There were two main reasons why the programme would have to be deviated from. Firstly, in some cases the raiyats would not readily execute *mutchalikas*, and consequently such works would have to be given up and in their places, some other urgent works taken up. Secondly, the estimates prepared for the projects in the triennial programme were only rough estimates. At the time of preparing detailed estimates, it was seen that the cost of some works would be prohibitively high, making it impossible for taking them up. That was the reason for dropping off some other projects. In the case of the Kolar District, the Executive Engineer and the Deputy Commissioner made a joint inspection of some of the works and had reported that some changes were called for in the schemes originally conceived. So a fresh list was being prepared in the Kolar District.

Having explained the actual position, **Mr. SARABHOJA** pointed out that if

even now *mutchalikas* were forthcoming from the concerned raiyats, the department could take up the works as soon as possible. As regards the restoration of major tanks, he said that out of the 78 projects included in the programme, 23 had been actually taken up and 5 more would be put on hand very soon. Of the 300 minor tanks, 62 were actually taken up and 15 more would also be undertaken in the near future. He added that certain other urgent and important works, not included in the programme had been taken up within the past 3 years. Thus the total number of projects taken up exceeded the number contemplated under the programme.

In conclusion, he assured the House that every attempt would be made to put on hand within the next 5 or 6 years all the works in the programme that might have been left over for some reason or other.

The PRESIDENT observed that the idea of Government was, if at all, to take up more works than those included in the programme but that there was no intention to drop any of the items included in it.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA brought to notice that in the Bowringpet Taluk, the Hirekere tank work had been surveyed, that *mutchalikas* in respect of it had been executed three years ago and that the revenue authorities had promised to take up the work soon. Still the work was not taken up.

The PRESIDENT said that the matter would be enquired into.

Mr. N. Bhogi MALLIAH represented that in respect of the Karigala project in Heggaddevankote Taluk, the raiyats were prepared to pay the necessary contribution and execute *mutchalikas*. If they had not already given *mutchalikas*, it was due to their being scattered over a wide area. Government could take his assurance, he said, that the majority of the raiyats were prepared to agree to the conditions imposed by Government and do the needful.

Mr. S. THIMME GOWDA urged that the feeder channel to the Moti Talav or Tonnur Tank which was estimated to cost Rs. 1,70,000 be taken up.

The PRESIDENT explained that the preliminary investigation of the project showed that the return expected from it was not even 1 per cent, but nevertheless the details would be gone into once again with a view to taking up the work.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH brought to notice that it was not a new project but one which had been in view for a long time. If the feeder channel was constructed, the Government would be able to realize a substantial income by way of land revenue.

The PRESIDENT conceded that by repairing the channel the land revenue that was being lost to Government could be got back. If that income together with the anticipated return worked out at a reasonable rate, the work would be taken up.

Mr. K. MARULAPPA complained that Yellambalase tank in Kadur District which had been included in the programme had been dropped out.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG urged that, in the case of all projects included in the programme, the Government should insist on the raiyats' executing *mutchalikas* without any delay. He also brought to notice the instance of Silnere and other tanks where *mutchalikas* had been given but work was not started.

Mr. G. SANKARA SETTY requested that the Gundaralahalli tank work in Pavagada Taluk might be taken up early.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that the project was under consideration.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY mentioned that the number of irrigation works undertaken during the regime of the present Dewan had beaten all previous record in Mysore and that his name would be immortalised on that score alone. At the same time, he would not be wrong in saying that more attention had been paid to huge projects costing several lakhs of rupees and other smaller schemes had not received the attention that they deserved. There were any number of such tanks in the Kolar District. He prayed that one or two lakhs of rupees be allotted for restoring them.

The PRESIDENT observed that so far as the Kolar District was concerned, tank restoration works had been taken up on a very large scale. As regards the works still remaining to be done, it would not be feasible to restore all of them at once.

In answer to a query from Mr. G. Kanchappa about Ankasandra project, **Mr. N. SARABHOJA** said that there was difficulty about getting water to that tank and that, however, the project was under investigation.

Mr. MIR MUHAMMAD HUSSEIN enquired if the Amrutur anicut in Dodballapur Taluk which had been included in the triennial programme was likely to be taken up in the near future.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that the department had taken up some big schemes both in the Kolar and Bangalore Districts and as such, the project mentioned by the member must await its turn.

Mr. Yajaman N. Y. VEERABHADRACHARYA expressed the gratitude of the raiyats of Nagamangala Taluk to the Dewan for having got the Sulekere tank restored at a heavy cost. He said that a feeder channel to the tank, which had been taken up, had not been completed and unless it was completed, not much benefit would be derived by the raiyats. But as there was no provision for completing the channel, he prayed that necessary funds be allotted therefor in the current year's budget. If this was done, he said that the town of Nagamangala could also be provided with drinking water facilities.

Mr. B. SITHARAMIAH, who supported the resolution, reminded the Dewan of the promise made by him three years ago to take up the construction of the Kariala project on the Vedavathi river below Borankanve. He also brought to notice that the Mavinamaduvu tank in Hiriyur had breached six years ago. No action had been taken so far in both the cases.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that the Kariyala scheme had been kept in abeyance because, if it was taken up, the tanks below would not get sufficient supply of water. The project was, however, under further examination.

Mr. ANJANA REDDY asked for information about the Goramanakatte tank, Madhugiri Taluk, included in the programme.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that the matter was under correspondence and it was likely to be sanctioned by Government.

Messrs. J. S. MAHALINGAPPA and **P. BASAPPA** complained about the lack of irrigation facilities in the Jagalur Taluk, and suggested the taking up of the Gadimaranakunte project.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that in respect of the schemes on the frontier taluk of Jagalur, the approval of the Madras Government had to be taken and hence a certain amount of delay was unavoidable.

Mr. K. BALE GOWDA pointed out that if the Marconahalli seepage channel was constructed, 2,000 acres of land could be brought under cultivation. The work had been surveyed and estimates also prepared.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that it would be taken up after completing all the urgent works on hand.

Mr. H. GANGAPPA brought to notice that the Yeligehalli project which was estimated to cost Rs. 2,40,000 had not been taken up yet even though the concerned raiyats had all executed *mutchalikas*.

Mr. C. SUBBANNA NAIK represented that though contribution from the raiyats under the Chavalamane Thagginakere tank had been collected by attaching their properties, yet they had been supplied with water for cultivation.

Lokasevaniratha DODDE GOWDA said that the Kadaba tank had gone out of repairs and consequently remissions were being recommended frequently resulting in loss of revenue to the State. It was high time that the tank was repaired and the loss avoided.

In reply to Mr. H. S. Chikkanna Gowda's query, **Mr. SARABHOJA** replied that as far as the Hassan District was concerned, all the tank works included in the programme had been taken up.

Mr. Y. V. MUNISWAMI IYER brought to notice that most of the tanks in *jodi* villages had breached but not

restored by the *jodidars* for years together. Thus they constituted a source of danger to the Government tanks below them. Moneys spent on the restoration of Government tanks might go to waste in the event of any danger occurring to the tanks in *jodi* villages. He therefore urged the Government to issue notices to the *jodidars* concerned and get the *jodi* tanks restored without delay. Or, in the alternative, he suggested that Government might themselves repair them and recover the *jodidar's* share of the cost from the party concerned.

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rau) said that if such *jodi* villages were converted into Government villages, there would be no room for the kind of fear expressed by the member.

Mr. M. MADIAH mentioned the cases of minor tanks in Yelandur Taluk which had to be restored urgently, *viz.*, Maddurkere, Yediyurkere and Kesturkere, the feeder channels of which was in bad repair.

Mr. N. Bhogi MALLIAH put forward the case of Sagar-Nallurkere.

Mr. K. N. PUTTANNA enquired if the Suvarnavathi project would be re-examined, seeing that the gaugings once taken were not reliable.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that that question also was engaging the attention of the department and that it had to be taken up in consultation with the Madras Government.

Mr. C. SUBBANNA NAIK represented that Thagginakere in Kadur District in respect of which raiyats had paid their contribution 10 years ago had not yet been restored and urged that it should be taken up without further delay.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHI ACHAR observed that if the Government would increase the grant for tank restoration and see that it was fully utilised each year, matters would improve vastly. He said that a special staff might be immediately employed for the preparation of estimates, etc., expeditiously.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that the question of employing a special staff for the purpose was under the active consideration of Government.

ONE MEMBER from Chitaldrug strongly urged the case of Jagir Buddanahalli project in Jagalur Taluk.

Mr. K. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO was of opinion that if proper attention was paid to ordinary repairs and maintenance at the proper time, the tanks could be maintained in proper condition. He regretted the lack of zeal on the part of the department to take up works included in the triennial programme even where the raiyats had executed *mutchalikas* in respect of them. The discussion on the resolution revealed that the programme was not at all adhered to. Even where provision had been made in the budget, certain works were executed in part and given up, with the result that money already spent on them had gone to waste. He therefore requested the Government to make a definite promise that they would adhere strictly to the programme and also complete the works for which funds had been provided. Otherwise, the framing of programmes would be only an eye-wash.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA replied that every attempt would be made to adhere to the programme as far as possible.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO brought to notice that there were certain instances of projects having been taken up without acquiring the private properties affected thereby and giving compensation to the parties. In the case of Yellakkenahallikere in Somanahalli hobli, the contractor had already spent Rs. 1,000, but the work was not allowed to be proceeded with by the owner of the lands which had to be acquired for the project. He therefore urged the need for scrutiny before sanctioning the projects, with due regard to all the legal implications involved.

Mr. N. SARABHOJA said that it was only a solitary instance of that nature.

The PRESIDENT observed that Government would give their best consideration to the various points referred to in the discussion.

The resolution was thereupon withdrawn.

At this stage (5 p.m.), the Assembly rose for the day to meet again at 12 noon on the following day.